

## Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-12

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R 111525Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1198

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 68

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL UNIONISTS AND NILP CALL FOR MINORITY COALITION

REF: BELFAST 66

1. HARRY WEST LEADER OF OFFICIAL UNIONIST PARTY AND  
TITULAR HEAD OF UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COUNCIL (UUUC) AT  
UUUC RALLY NEWTOWNARDS FEB 10 CHALLENGED "...IF THOSE PARTIES  
WHO WANT TO SHARE IN GOVERNMENT WITH THOSE WHO SEEK TO  
AMALGAMATE US WITH THE REPUBLIC WILL USE THE CONSTITUTIONAL  
PLAN WORKED OUT IN THE CONVENTION.... (PHASE 1)..... THEN THEY  
CAN GO AHEAD WITH IT." WEST SAID "THEY" COULD ANNOUNCED ELECTORAL  
PACT AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO CONTEST A GENERAL ELECTION AS A  
COALITION. THEN HE SAID, IF MAJORITY SUPPORTED COALITION  
"WE" WOULD BECOME OPPOSITION. "THIS IS DEMOCRACY" HE SAID,  
"WHAT BETTER CAN WE OFFER?" WEST WARNED THAT REFERENDUM ON  
HAVING A COALITION WAS NOT ADEQUATE SINCE, WHILE REFERENDUM  
RESULTS MIGHT FAVOR (PRINCIPLE OF) COALITION ELECTORATE IN  
SUBSEQUENT GENERAL ELECTION, ON SEEING WHO WOULD ACTUALLY MAKE  
UP COALITION, MIGHT REJECT IT. ALAN CARR, CHAIRMAN OF (SMALL)  
NORTHERN IRELAND LABOUR PARTY (NILP) POLICY SUB-COMMITTEE, IN  
STATEMENT FEB.10 REFERRED TO RECENT OPINION POLL (REFTEL)  
AND SAID IT CLEAR THAT ONLY THE "POLITICAL COWARDICE" OF THE  
SDLP (SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTPY), UPNI (UNIONIST  
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PARTY NORTHERN IRELAND, FAULKNER) AND ALLIANCE PARTY WAS BLOCKING

WAY TO CREATION OF A BROADLY-BASED DEVOLVED GOVERNMENT IN THE PROVINCE. "IF WE ARE TO MOVE FORWARD" HE SAID, "THEN FAULKNER (BRIAN), FITT (GERRY) AND NAPIER (OLIVER) MUST EXPRESS THEIR WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREED POLITICAL PROGRAM WITH THOSE OF US WHO ARE COMMITTED TO THE CONCEPT OF VOLUNTARY COALITION."

2. INTERESTINGLY, WEST SPEECH WHICH CONSISTENT IN TONE AND SUBSTANCE WITH HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENTS, FOLLOWED UUUC/ ALLIANCE INTER PARTY TALK. FRAGMENTARY REPORTS ON THIS MEETING INCLUDE NEWS THAT UUUC WELCOMED "POSITIVE" DEVELOPMENT IN THAT ALLIANCE MADE CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS ON MODIFYING CONVENTION REPORT. IT APPEARS THAT UUUC, RATHER THAN YIELDING OR FRAGMENTING UNDER PRESSURES IS BRINGING ABOUT CONCESSIONS ON PART SOME OTHER GROUPS AT LEAST TO EXTENT DISCUSSIONS HELD ON UUUC TERMS. UUC AND SDLP SCHEDULED MEET THURSDAY FEB. 12.

3. IRISH TIMES AND IRISH NEWS CARRY NEWS OF LUNCH MEETING FEB. 10 OF IRISH AMBASSADOR IN LONDON AND VANGUARD LEADER WILLIAM CRAIG. PROTESTANT AND INCREASINGLY MODERATE NEWS LETTER DOES NOT HAVE STORY. DESPITE CAREFUL WORDING THAT MEETING CONCERNED WITH SECURITY MATTERS IT PROBABLE CRAIG WILL BE TARGET CRITICISM FROM SOME LOYALISTS. REVEREND IAN PAISLEY REFUSES TO MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM REPUBLIC OF IRELAND AND IS VOCAL IN HIS SUSPICIONS ABOUT THOSE WHO DO TALK "WITH DUBLIN".  
SPICER

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## Message Attributes

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